

A FEW NOTES ON BRENTHIDÆ.

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So far as is known, this family is represented by but six species in our fauna. Some of these are very interesting on account of their abnormal length and extreme slenderness.

Cylas formicarius Fabricius.

This species breeds in sweet potatoes, also a creeping plant closely allied to the sweet potato plant. The creeping plant grows just at high-water mark on the seashore of Florida. During the month of April at Palm Beach, Fla., I discovered that this species was very plentiful under this plant.

Eupsalis minuta Drury.

This is the only species of Brenthidæ which occurs in the vicinity of New York. I have taken it under bark of dead hickory and found it very common in dead gum trees in Virginia.

Trachelicus miamana Bohemann.

I have taken this species in the vicinity of Miami, Elliotts Key and Key Largo, Fla., from flowers in May. It seems to be rare. Last summer I collected the last two weeks in June and the first week in July at Key Largo, Fla. I secured only one specimen and found the remnants of another.

Vaseletia vaseleta Bohemann.

This species occurs in gumbo limpa (*Hibiscus esculentus* ?), but does not bore in the stem. It breeds in rotten moist bark, which is often $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. The insect has the same color as the bark and lies as if dead in the moisty stuff.

Taken at Santa Rosa, Lower California, July, 1901.

Brenthus anchorago Linnæus.

The peculiar characteristic of this species consists in its long and slender form. It occurs in Lower California in August; in Jupiter, Fla., and southwards in April and May.

It breeds in gumbo limpa, through which it burrows. I found trees, which were practically filled with this species. It varies greatly in size. Small specimens were described as *Brenthus lutans* Horn.

The error would have been avoided if Dr. Horn had seen a long series of this insect at that time.

Brenthus peninsularis Horn.

This species is erroneously reported to breed in gumbo limpa. During the month of May I took this insect at flowers at San Filipe, Lower California, and I was not able to discover their breeding place. *Brenthus anchorago* came out in August and I examined hundreds of this latter species, but never found one *B. peninsularis* mixed up with them.

Class I, HEXAPODA.

Order IV, DIPTERA.

**THE LARVA OF CULEX PUNCTOR KIRBY, WITH
NOTES ON AN ALLIED FORM.**

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(PLATE IX.)

Culex punctor Kirby, is one of those single-brooded, early developing mosquitoes that would seem especially adapted to an arctic climate. Three-fourths of the year is spent in the egg state. The eggs, lying in marshy places frozen up over winter, hatch as soon as the ice has melted in the spring. The larval stages are passed in about three weeks, even in very cold water and the adults emerge immediately. They may fly possibly for six weeks, when the eggs being laid, they die and the species disappears, apparently, for the season. With these habits the insect ought to occur throughout the arctic circle. I met with it in Canada in the mountains of eastern British Columbia (Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., VI, 39, 1904). A single fully grown larva, apparently the last one of a brood, was found on May 31. It soon pupated and the imago occurred on June 4. Other mosquitoes were flying at this time over the swamp where the larva was found and were supposed to be of the same species. On being imprisoned, they were fed on sugar and water. After being in confinement for two weeks, a female deposited eggs on the surface of the water. They were kept in water